

10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said plurality of application programming interfaces is at least one of vendor-specific and switch-fabric-specific.

11. An apparatus comprising:

a switch fabric; and

a switch-fabric proxy service for providing a normalized interface between said switch fabric and a switch intelligence for communications involving said switch fabric.

12. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said switch fabric is physically separated from said switch intelligence.

13. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said switch fabric is logically separated from said switch intelligence.

14. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service interfaces to said switch fabric with any one of a plurality of application programming interfaces and interfaces to said switch intelligence with a uniform application programming interface.

15. An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein each of said plurality of application programming interfaces comprises at least one of a vendor-specific application programming interface and a switch-fabric-specific application programming interface.

16. An apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said switch-fabric proxy service translates switch-fabric communications into switch-intelligence communications.

17. An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said switch-fabric communications are at least one of vendor-specific and switch-fabric-specific.

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18. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service translates switch-intelligence communications into switch-fabric communications.

19. An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said switch-fabric communications are at least one of vendor-specific and switch-fabric-specific.

20. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service translates switch-fabric communications into communications defined according to a uniform interface.

21. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service translates communications defined according to a uniform interface into switch-fabric communications.

22. An apparatus comprising:

a switch intelligence for providing control functions to at least one switch fabric;

and

a switch-fabric proxy service for providing a normalized interface, between said switch intelligence and said at least one switch fabric, for communications involving said at least one switch fabric.

23. An apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said switch intelligence is one of logically separated and physically separated from said at least one switch fabric.

24. An apparatus according to claim 22 further comprising a feature processor executing at least one telecommunications function, for interacting with said switch intelligence to thereby provide at least one telecommunications function.

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25. An apparatus according to claim 22 wherein each of said plurality of application programming interfaces comprises at least one of a vendor-specific application programming interface and a switch-fabric-specific application programming interface.

26. An apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said switch intelligence provides control functions to a plurality of switch fabrics.

27. An apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said switch intelligence further comprises at least one of a facility service, a call connection manager service, and a call segment instance service.

28. An apparatus according to claim 27 wherein said at least one of a facility service, a call connection manager service, and a call segment instance service is distributed over a plurality of network elements.

29. A switch-fabric proxy service comprising:

means for translating switch-fabric communications into switch-intelligence communications; and

means for translating switch-intelligence communications into switch-fabric communications.

30. A switch-fabric proxy service comprising:

means for translating switch-fabric communications into communications defined according to a uniform switch-intelligence interface; and

means for translating the communications defined according to the uniform switch-intelligence interface into switch-fabric communications.

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31. A switch-fabric proxy service according to claim 30, further comprising:

means for translating communications defined according to the uniform interface into switch-intelligence communications; and

means for translating switch-intelligence communications into communications defined according to a uniform interface.

32. An apparatus comprising:

a switch-fabric proxy service that is capable of at least one of translating switch-fabric communications into switch-intelligence communications, translating the switch-intelligence communications into the switch-fabric communications, translating the switch-fabric communications into communications defined according to a uniform switch-intelligence interface, and translating the communications defined according to a uniform switch-intelligence interface into the switch-fabric communications.

33. An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said proxy service includes a normalized interface between a switch fabric and a switch intelligence.

34. The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said switch intelligence is one of logically separated and physically separated from said switch fabric.

35. An apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising a switch fabric including said proxy service.

36. An apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising a switch intelligence including said proxy service.

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37. An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service includes an application programming interface for interfacing with a switch fabric.

38. An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said application programming interface is at least one of a vendor-specific interface and a switch-fabric-specific interface.

39. An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said switch-fabric proxy service includes an application programming interface for interfacing with a switch-intelligence.

40. An apparatus comprising:

a switch intelligence for controlling a switch fabric, said switch intelligence physically separate from the switch fabric and couplable to a feature processor that executes at least one telecommunications function, wherein said switch intelligence comprises all aspects of data processing required to complete a bearer request.

41. An apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said switch intelligence further comprises at least one of a facility service, a call connection manager service, and a call segment instance service, wherein said at least one of a facility service, a call connection manager service, and a call segment instance service is distributed over a plurality of network elements.

42. The apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said switch intelligence includes at least one of a first application programming interface communicable with a switch-fabric proxy service and a second application programming interface communicable with the feature processor.

43. The apparatus according to claim 40, further comprising at least one application programming interface communicable between said at least one of a facility service, a call

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connection manager service, and a call segment instance service and another of said at least one of a facility service, a call connection manager service, and a call segment instance service.

44. An apparatus comprising:

a feature processor for executing at least one telecommunications function; and

an application programming interface communicating with said feature processor,

wherein said application programming interface translates feature processor communications into at least one of communications defined according to a uniform interface and switch-intelligence communications.

45. An apparatus for coupling at least one switch fabric having a control interface to at least one switch intelligence for controlling the switch fabric, the switch intelligence being physically separated from the switch fabric, comprising:

a switch-fabric proxy service including a first interface communicable with the switch fabric, the first interface being compatible with the switch-fabric control interface, and a second interface communicable with the switch intelligence by which the switch intelligence controls the switch fabric.

46. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the second interface is an application programming interface accessible to processes running in a computing environment of the switch intelligence.

2025-01-24 10:54:45